

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A user-data relating apparatus ~~for causing user data to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data, the user data being added by a user in relation to a material employed while the continuous data is recorded, the apparatus~~ comprising:

~~an input unit for inputting the user data added by the user with respect to a that~~
allows a user to electronically add user data to a second material which has been electronically distributed to the user in relation to the a first material actually used in which is used when the continuous data; and data is recorded; and

~~a relating unit for causing that causes~~ the user data to be related to a corresponding position contained in the continuous data in which where the material was employed is used, based upon a corresponding relationship between the material to which the user data has been added and the material employed while the continuous data is recorded. second material and the first material.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A user data~~ The user-data relating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~an analyzing unit for specifying both the material employed while that~~
specifies (i) which material is used as the first material when the continuous data is recorded and the position contained (ii) the corresponding position in the continuous data in which the material was employed where the first material is used.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A user data~~ The user data relating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a synchronous output unit ~~for synchronizing that~~ synchronizes the continuous data with the user data to reproduce both the continuous data and the user data synchronized with the continuous data based upon the relating information acquired by the relating unit.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A user-data relating method ~~for causing user data to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data, the user data being added by a user in relation to a material employed while the continuous data is recorded, the method comprising:~~

~~accepting the user data added by the user with respect to a~~ allowing a user to electronically add user data to a second material which has been electronically distributed to the user in relation to the material actually used in the continuous data; and a first material which is actually used when continuous data is recorded; and

~~causing the user data to be related to a~~ corresponding position contained in the continuous data in which the material was employed first material is used, based upon a corresponding relationship between the material to which the user data has been added and the material employed while the continuous data is recorded. second material and the first material.

7. (Currently Amended) A user-data relating method ~~for causing user data to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data, the user data being added by a user in relation to a material employed while the continuous data is recorded, the method comprising:~~

~~extracting user data which was described by the user with respect to a~~ extracting (i) user data which is written by a user into a second material distributed to the user in relation to a first material which is used when continuous data is recorded and (ii) an

electronically readable identifier assigned to the second material, by reading an image of a printed material; and

causing the user data to be related to a corresponding position in the continuous data in which the material was employed where the first material is used, based upon (i) the extracted electronically readable identifier and (ii) a corresponding relationship between the material in which the extracted user data has been described and the material employed while the continuous data is recorded. second material and the first material.

8. (New) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

specifying (i) which material is used as the first material when the continuous data is recorded and (ii) the corresponding position in the continuous data where the first material is used.

9. (New) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

synchronizing the continuous data with the user data to reproduce both the continuous data and the user data synchronized with the continuous data based upon the relating information acquired by the relating unit.

10. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the electronically readable identifier is one selected from the group consisting of a bar code and a glyph.

11. (New) A user-data relating apparatus comprising:

a reading unit that reads an image of a second material which is distributed to a user;

an extraction unit that extracts (i) user data which is written by a user into the second material in relation to a first material which is used when continuous data is recorded and (ii) an electronically readable identifier assigned to the second material; and

a relating unit that causes the extracted user data to be related to a corresponding position in the continuous data where the first material is used, based upon

(i) the extracted electronically readable identifier and (ii) a correspondence relation between the first material and the second material.